

# EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

March 15 - 21, 2024

Church of the Epiphany ~ 85 Larch St. Sudbury, Ontario ~ P3E 1B8

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## WORSHIP CELEBRATION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF LENT ~ SUNDAY, MARCH 17<sup>th</sup> 2024 ~

**8:30am** – Traditional Said Service with Holy Communion (BCP)

**10:30am** – Main Worship Service with music and Holy Eucharist (BAS).

**READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

**SUMMARY OF READINGS:** Today's First Testament reading is an unqualified

announcement of salvation as it contains the only explicit reference to the Second Testament and the new covenant. As we approach the end of the season of penitence and preparation, Jeremiah anticipates a particular aspect of the good news of Easter – that God will transform human hearts. The composer of Psalm 119 assures us that our deepest yearnings are not only found in intellectual pursuits. Rather our deepest longings stem from our yearning to know God in our heart and to know that we can trust God wholeheartedly. Jesus' passion is highlighted in the Letter to the Hebrews as it teaches that there is wholeness on the other side of suffering. An ominous note is sounded in the Gospel story, as we hear Jesus speak of his impending death.

**QUESTION FOR REFLECTION:** God is at work offering forgiveness, showing mercy, and giving knowledge of life, death, and salvation. Where is God enacting that new life within or around you? What in your life must die so that you may flourish? What must fall away so that you can rise again in Christ?

**AT HOME PRAYERS - Morning** – Loving God, you offer the gift of new life each day. Open my heart to receive this grace that I may be wholly yours, then give me the courage to share this gift wherever I go as I seek to walk in your mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. In the name of the Holy One, I pray. Amen.

**Evening** - Forgiving God, who makes all things new, you know where I have flourished this day, and you know where I have failed. Help me to know that in all my challenges there is a seed of hope that enables me to more faithfully depend on you. May I rest in peace this night and awake refreshed to greet the newness of your day. In the name of the One who makes all things new, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



**PLEASE REMEMBER** - If you are not feeling well, or have any ill symptoms such as coughing, fever, fatigue, or a sore throat, please stay home and join us for the worship services that will be offered online. We are delighted to welcome you online if you are not able to join us in person.



### OVERVIEW OF REV. ELIZABETH'S SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>:

**Monday** – Day Off for Sabbath Rest

**Tuesday** – In the office, and out with Home Communion,

**Wednesday** – Mid Week Worship and *Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church*. Meetings in the afternoon.

**Thursday** – Meetings on Manitoulin Island during the day; Parish Council meeting in the evening.  
**Friday** – ETW and worship prep.

Please be assured that if you need to speak with Rev. Elizabeth or schedule a visit for any reason, please email her at [greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com](mailto:greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com) or leave a telephone message for her at the church office. Thank You



Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> - **The Sunday of the Passion** with the Liturgy of the Palms, 10:30am

Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> – Mid-Week Worship, 10am

Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> - **Maundy Thursday** with Washing of Feet and Holy Eucharist, 7pm.

Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> – **Good Friday:** The Celebration of the Lord's Passion – 11am

Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> – **Holy Saturday: The Great Easter Vigil** at the Church of the Ascension, 7:30pm

Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> – **EASTER SUNDAY** 8:30am and 10:30am.



**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY SANDWICH PROJECT** - Over the last many years, a small group of parishioners have always stepped up to provide the makings of at least 20 loaves of sandwiches in months with a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, for the Elgin Street Mission at the Samaritan's Centre. (FYI - There are usually about 5 months a year with a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday). This year Easter Sunday falls on a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday! The same faithful group will undoubtedly provide as they have every other 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. However, in conversation with The Samaritan Centre recently we have learned that they have need of and storage space for all kinds of **non-perishable** makings for sandwiches: items such as mayonnaise, canned salmon or tuna, peanut butter, jam, soft margarine etc.



In many places in the Gospels, we are directed to feed the hungry, as we attempt to follow Christ. Can we at Epiphany help fill their shelves with these items at Easter this year? We hope that many of you who are not already involved in this worthwhile project will bring some of these items to church with you this Eastertide. The food box will be open to accept these donations starting on Palm Sunday and at every service in Holy Week, including Easter Sunday. Let's fill those shelves! Thanks in advance!!



**SACY TO CLOSE:** For many years the ongoing Outreach Ministry to SACY has been very important to many people in our parish. So it is with heavy hearts that we now bid farewell to these vital youth services in Sudbury. We give thanks to God for all those who have worked and served as the staff, volunteers and friends of SACY. We pray with hope that new and lasting services for Sudbury's youth will soon emerge and become available. In the meantime, to every member of Epiphany who has faithfully supported SACY through the years, *Thank You.*



## URGENT NOTICE

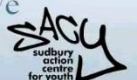
It is with heavy hearts that we announce the permanent closure of SACY as of Monday, March 18, 2024.

The Day Program's last day will be today, March 15 2024. We will be operating and helping community till end of day today at 4 PM.

The NEST SHELTER will be operating until Monday, March 18, 2024 at 10 AM.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to all of our partners, and supporters who have been with us throughout our journey. Your trust and collaboration have been invaluable to us.

To all of our visitors, supporters, students and program volunteers we appreciate you. We remember you. WE THANK YOU.



**A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH:**

***Christ be within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ inquired, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.***

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**



This Sunday is St. Patrick's Day. It is a day when some will celebrate with green beer, green milkshakes, green eggs and ham, or with traditional "pub grub". But did you know that St. Patrick himself was not Irish!

Most likely from Great Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish pirates when he was a teenager. In Ireland, which was a pagan country at the time, Patrick was enslaved as a shepherd for six years. While he endured cold and hunger, he turned to God and prayed unceasingly. According to his autobiography, St. Patrick prayed one hundred prayers every day, which helped him to forget his suffering.

Eventually, Patrick escaped from Ireland. Upon returning home, he studied to become a priest, and he was ordained a bishop when he was 43. Patrick had an unshakable desire to bring the Gospel to the people of Ireland. He didn't move on so to forget all about Ireland after his liberation. Instead, he acted on God's call to return and make known the good news of Christ.

As Patrick responded to this call to holiness and action, he converted countless people, ordained priests, and established dioceses in Ireland. He's known for using the image of a shamrock to explain the mystery of the holy trinity. The three leaves of a shamrock represent the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but the stem that they share reminds us that they are one.

The story of St Patrick serves as a reminder that the hardships that we face are often meant to strengthen us in our faith. During our suffering and struggles, we are wise to look outside of ourselves and seek God in serving others, just as St. Patrick did. Then, as we grow closer to God in our service to others, we receive God's grace and perhaps even learn the reasons behind our suffering.

When we follow the teachings and examples of Jesus, God does not excuse us from our suffering, but makes it redemptive for us and for others. If St. Patrick had never gone to Ireland and encountered its people, would he have travelled there to share the Gospel? Probably not. St. Patrick's suffering was necessary not only for his own sanctification, but also for the salvation of an entire nation.

Right now, nations throughout the world are suffering due to war, famine, oppression, and natural disasters; but like St. Patrick, we can turn towards God instead of focusing on what we can not do now. We can pray for those affected by the atrocities of war and violence and do small acts of service for our neighbours; especially for those who are poor, marginalized or oppressed. Though these circumstances are dark, they offer us the means through which we are transformed into becoming more Christ-like **if** we respond to God's call to action.

*The Breastplate* is a prayer by St. Patrick that I have included at the beginning of my note. It helps us to deepen our trust in God. It reminds us that Christ always surrounds us. This is why we should remember God's constant presence with us, especially in difficult moments. I encourage us all to pray *The Breastplate* for the remainder of this Lenten season because it serves to remind us of Christ's presence in our lives. I know it can be difficult to feel Christ's presence during our moments of suffering, but in reality, Christ is always beside me and you. Thanks be to God!

Yours Faithfully,  
Elizabeth+



**LET US PRAY**

**FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY:** Wilson Biswas; Robert Nanka-Bruce; Stephen and John Birkas; Mary Donato; Ruth Corston; Samuel Fritz; Margaret Loney

**FOR THOSE IN NEED:** Terry; Sheila; William; Jean; Pat; Nick and Ellen; John and Judith; Karen and Corrine; Della and Sandra; Frances; Monique; Carol and Bob; Peter and Alice Mae; Maybourne, Roger.



**Watch us LIVE** on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 at [www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services](http://www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services)

**Announcements for ETW** should be sent to [etw@epiphanysudbury.org](mailto:etw@epiphanysudbury.org) by NOON each Thursday.

**Donate Online:** You can make a donation to the Epiphany, via PayPal, by clicking the “Donate Now” button at the top or bottom of each page on our website.

